

STEVINGTON MAGAZINE



Peck Farm House
2004

Linn Sillman

MARCH 2019
Number 188

VILLAGE DIARY

March

- 23 Litter Pick. Village Hall
- 25 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30-1.30pm (page 23)
- 27 'Free From' Foods Group. (see page 4)
- 27 Bedford Sailing Club AGM. Royal George. 8.00pm (see page 29)
- 31 Mothering Sunday Afternoon Service. St. Mary's. 4.00pm (see page 38)

April

- 1 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30-1.30pm (page 23)
- 2 Live Opera Broadcast. La Forza Del Destino. Village Hall
- 4 Film. Mama Mia! Here We Go Again. Village Hall
- 6 Wavelength Project. Church Room. 11.00am-12.30pm. (see page 49)
- 8 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30-1.30pm (page 23)
- 9 FOSM Open Gardens Meeting. Church Room. 5.00pm (see page 19)
- 11 WI Family Lawyers Are Almost Human. Church Room 7.30pm
- 11 Live Theatre Broadcast. All About Eve. Village Hall
- 13 Defibrillator Training. Village Hall. 10am to 12noon. (see page 8)
- 15 Lent Lunches. Church Room. 12.30-1.30pm (page 23)
- 17 Live Theatre Broadcast. As You Like It. Village Hall
- 19 Good Friday Service. St. Mary's. 2.00pm. (see page 38)
- 21 Easter Sunday Service. St. Mary's. 9.30am (see page 38)
- 22 Kathy Brown's Open Garden Teas for St. Mary's. (see page 38)
- 30 Live Opera Broadcast. Faust. Village Hall

May

- 2 Film. Manon Des Sources. Village Hall
- 9 WI Annual Meeting. Church Room 7.30pm
- 12 Stevington 12K Road Race. (page 20)
- 14 Afternoon Tea. Baptist Hall. 3.00pm
- 16 Live Ballet Broadcast. 3 Contemporary Ballets. Village Hall
- 18 WI Plant & Produce Stall. The Cross
- 19 Magazine Copy Date (Sunday)
- 30 Live Theatre Broadcast. All My Sons. Village Hall

June

- 2 FOSM Stevington Open Gardens. (see page 18)
- 5 Live Theatre Broadcast. Taming of the Shrew. Village Hall
- 11 Live Ballet Broadcast. Romeo & Juliet. Village Hall
- 20 Live Theatre Broadcast. Merry Wives of Windsor. Village Hall
- 22 FOSM 'A Musical Evening with Emma Field'. 7.30pm (see page 19)
- 23 Bulky Waste Collection. (see page 50)
- 27 Live Theatre Broadcast. Small Island. Village Hall

HELLO STEVINGTON!

You will remember that our Christmas Greetings Charity in December was Magpas Air Ambulance. Thanks to the generosity of the village we had 43 greetings and raised £842 plus Gift Aid. We have received a formal thank you letter which is included on page 5.

We are very grateful to all our regular advertisers who have signed up to continue to support the Magazine during 2019. The annual costs of the Magazine are a little over £1,000 and without our advertisers we wouldn't be able to cover costs so please have a look through the Magazine and use all of these local businesses when you have a need - it's great to support them as they support us! Remember to tell them where you found their details.

Congratulations to Stevington Football Club! The First Team has become the first ever Bedfordshire County Football League club to win the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy. Both village teams are doing well in their respective leagues too. See page 31 for the full report.

Bedford Borough Council is doing a survey to gather residents' views about Harrold Odell Country Park and Priory Country Park. Lots of us in the village regularly use these green spaces so please respond to the surveys - details on pages 44 & 61.

The village has three defibrillators, and everyone is encouraged to attend a training session on 13 April - knowing what to do or telling someone else if you cannot help yourself could save a life. The training is nothing to fear so why not go along and see for yourself? See page 8 for details.

If you need help with 'IT' in the widest sense, be it your phone, tablet, PC or TV, then go along to the Wavelength event on 6 April. See page 49. Note the change of date so it doesn't clash with the defibrillator training.

Heather and Keith

NEXT MAGAZINE

The next edition of the Stevington Magazine should be delivered sometime around 1-2 June 2019. The last day for receipt of copy for that Magazine is Sunday 19 May 2019. Articles should reach Heather and Keith Parkinson (Old Paddock, Church Road, Tel. 826677, email stevington.magazine@googlemail.com) on that day, although we will be delighted to receive copy at any time before then.



THE ANNE STILEMAN BURSARIES

Exhibition entrance fees too expensive? Need better art kit? Wish you could afford that course? Remember that the Parish Council holds funds, raised at last year's Anne Stileman exhibition, to help Stevington artists.

To apply, email the Parish Council at stevingtonpc@live.co.uk or write to the Clerk of the Parish Council at 21a, Court Lane, with your reasons for needing a bursary.

Jackie Gooding

'FREE FROM' FOODS GROUP

An increasing number of us, for optimal health reasons, need to change our diets to exclude 'modern' foods such as gluten and processed foods. It can be a struggle to find alternatives which are tasty and fulfil our needs. At our first meeting we discussed recipes and ways of adapting them which can help in the transition to a new way of eating and feeling satisfied.

If you are interested in participating in an occasional informal group to discuss food, sources, meal plans and recipes, please contact Susan Young at info@susanyoungdesign.co.uk or by phone or text on 07787 158288. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 March, 7.30pm, 58 Park Road, Stevington.

Susan Young

CHURCH ROOM PIANO NEEDS A NEW HOME

Free to a good home, or a contribution. One upright piano now surplus to requirements in the Church Room (NOT the Bechstein, the other one!). It has been regularly tuned and is in reasonably good condition. (We might be able to help with short distance transport.)



Contact Robert Eadie 01234 826198 or anyone on the PCC or FOSM Trustees.

Opinions expressed in the Stevington Magazine are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the Editor. Some features may be kept for future issues.

Heather & Keith Parkinson
Old Paddock
Church Road
Stevington
Bedford
MK43 7QB

17th January 2019

Dear Heather and Keith,

I would like to personally thank you for amazing donation of £842, which we recently received. Mrs Jackson kindly sent my colleague Debbie a copy of the magazine; we were delighted by all the lovely messages and to receive such a wonderful amount.

Your support and generosity means that we can continue providing lifesaving care across the East of England and beyond, even at Christmas time. I was part of the Magpas medical team working on Christmas day, alongside my colleague Dr Natalie Lonsdale. We were ready and waiting for the calls to come in for patients who needed our help. And the calls did come in, an incredible 33 times in fact between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Myself and Natalie, along with the other Magpas medics on shift treated patients suffering a wide range of medical emergencies including cardiac arrests, road traffic collisions, falls, burns and more over the festive period. It is thanks to people like you that we were able to provide these patients with the best possible emergency care directly to them at the scene.

I've been on shift the last two Christmases and even though it's hard being away from my family I'm very proud to work for a charity that brings the essential care, skills and equipment normally only found in a hospital.

Thank you once again and wishing you the very best for 2019.

Warmest regards,

Ollie

Ollie Robinson
Magpas Air Ambulance Paramedic

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE STRONG

George Strong died on 4 February at the age of 101 years. For many years he and his wife Phyllis kept and ran our last remaining commercial village shop which was on the corner of Silver Street.

He loved Stevington and was fondly remembered by all who knew him. He always said Stevington was his favourite village and until he became less mobile, came to do his weekly shop at our Community Shop. George and Phyllis were a friendly and kind couple who were missed when they moved to Carlton. George was superbly looked after by the village of Carlton in his later years where he made many friends.



His executor has contacted the editor to say that he has bequeathed a painting of the centre of the village to Stevington in his will. Stevington Parish Council will discuss the display of this lovely memento at their next meeting.

Rosie Stanbridge

Photo: George on his 101st Birthday. Courtesy of Brian Hillier.

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

To access these in an emergency situation, **please dial 999 immediately**. The call handler will provide you with the code for the cabinet lock.

The defibrillators are located in:

- Red telephone box near the cross in Church Road
- Yellow cabinet on front of Village Hall
- Yellow cabinet on front of Baptist Chapel Hall, West End.



MY MEMORIES OF GEORGE STRONG

When we first came to the village in October '67 as newly-weds, Mr and Mrs Staveley (Councillor Pat Olney's parents) ran the village shop and Post Office. You went in and asked for what you needed and had a little chat while waiting to be served. I remember Mr Staveley's puzzlement when I asked for yoghurt. It had not yet found its way to Stevington and a lot of people didn't know what it was!

Sometime after George and Phyllis Strong took over the business, they had the shop premises enlarged to the size most people remember, with the counter and the till in the right hand corner as you came in the front door and the Post Office counter and a glass topped delicatessen section all along the other end. With its extension it also became a modern self-service store.

George was a most conscientious and friendly postmaster. I thought of him as being the true heart of the village - a font of local knowledge and information, without being a gossip monger. He knew us all by name - we were all Mr and Mrs in those days - none of this first name familiarity!

Because Tony and I had lived and worked abroad before coming to Stevington, we sent a lot of Christmas cards all over the world. Poor George used to despair when I turned up two days before Christmas with a pile of cards, hoping they would miraculously arrive at their far-off destinations in time. He always made sure I had the 'last posting days' leaflet as soon as it was published and even sent us a copy when we were in Malaysia for a year. Alas, I continued to be 'the late Mrs Hollins'.

George had played the cello when young and the highlight of the war years for him was when the BBC moved their headquarters to Bedford and the Symphony Orchestra gave regular concerts at the Corn Exchange. Knowing of his interest in music, I once asked him if he was coming to a big concert which we were rehearsing with the children at the village school. He was very apologetic at having to turn me down as he said, 'Even if the Queen herself were coming to Stevington on a Friday evening, I wouldn't be able to attend, as I have to do the end of week accounts!' He often said that if he had known how much work and what long hours were involved, he might not have chosen to take on the shop as a little job to keep him occupied after he officially retired from his 'proper' job.

Mrs Strong was at the counter near the door to take our money or, if necessary, write the amount owing into a little book which she kept for the purpose. I remember her being amused when our daughter Sue said, 'Oh we don't pay for it, Mum says it just goes in the book.' Phyllis was a gentle soft-spoken lady. I think she was quite shy but always helpful and friendly with a hidden sense of humour. Among her stalwart helpers were Barbara Harpin, Peg Chadburn and Sheila Tucker.

When the Strongs retired and moved to Carlton, they soon settled into the community there. They had many good friends who supported George after Phyllis died and looked after him as he became frailer. He regularly attended and enjoyed the summer concerts at Hill House and was always pleased to see anyone he knew from Stevington there. Happy as he was in Carlton, he kept a soft spot in his heart for Stevington and his friends here. He enjoyed coming to the Community Shop, planning his visits for Tuesday mornings when Barbara Collins was in charge. When he could no longer drive, friends used to bring him over and help him with his shopping. He supported our Malawi teas and sent us cheques for the Orphanage when he could no longer attend.

George was a true gentleman who endeared himself to all of us who knew him. Our family will always remember him with affection.

Dita Hollins

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING



- **Learn what to do in an emergency**
- **Learn who to call**
- **Learn how to get access**
- **Learn how you will be guided**
- **Learn how to help save a life**
- **Learn to use**

Saturday 13 April
10am to 12 noon. Village Hall



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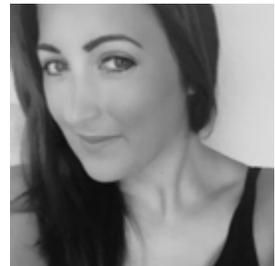
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STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors:

Paul O'Flynn (Chair)
Pete Fisher (Vice Chair)
Sarah Bush
Janet Day
Andrew Lockwood
James Lockwood
Jane Thomas

Clerk to the Parish Council: Tricia Lennie

Parish Council

This is the final article from the current Parish Council - with the upcoming local elections taking place in May 2019 all council posts are up for election. If you are over 18 and are interested in playing a role in your local community, then becoming a Parish Councillor could well be the right role for you. If you are interested in standing for election to the Parish Council the nomination papers must be submitted between 26 March 2019 and the deadline of 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019. You can download nomination papers and access more information from:

- Electoral Commission (www.electoralcommission.org.uk)
- Email: electoral.registration@bedford.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01234 718078
- Tricia Lennie, Stevington's Parish Clerk (stevingtonpc@live.co.uk).

The election is on 2 May 2019.

The Village Hall

The Parish Council has worked closely with the Village Hall Committee and their Trustees who manage the village hall and the recreation ground on its behalf. The village hall is now offering a more extensive range of events for the village to enjoy.

We have had the regular events such as Burns Night, Hostess Supper, Road Race, Guitar Concerts and the newly reinstated Firework Display which has proved very popular. In addition, the village is incredibly fortunate to have a monthly Cinema Club and 'live screenings' of opera and ballet from the Royal Opera House and the latest drama productions from the National Theatre. These are all well attended and provide both residents of Stevington and other local villages with the opportunity to see high quality cultural events in a local venue offering a

welcome and a range of refreshments. In the last year there have been 11 films and 29 'live screenings'.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Village Hall Committee, plus all its hard-working volunteers who add capacity in delivering the events (door, bar, coffee, ice cream etc), for providing events for us to enjoy. Currently the committee not only manages and runs events but members of the committee also put in many hours in maintaining the fabric of the building ensuring it complies with all the latest health and safety requirements.

At the recent AGM the Parish Council was delighted that two residents offered to become additional members of the committee which adds to the capacity of these hard working volunteers.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling continues to be a major issue on the recreation ground with 'deposits' being found in all areas including the areas where children play and the areas used by the footballers and families who regularly use the field. You will soon notice that the 'deposits' will be clearly marked with coloured paint making it easier for us to monitor the issue. If this issue continues the Parish Council will have to review the regulations regarding dogs on the playing field.

The Litter Pick

The Parish Council would like to promote the litter pick which takes place on Saturday 23 March - look out for the posters. Bedford Borough provide the necessary equipment to undertake the litter pick safely. It is an opportunity to ensure that the village and its surrounding verges are clean and tidy to welcome the Spring.

The litter pick now needs to be restricted to areas within the 30mph limit as the Borough has changed its ruling and will not insure people who litter pick outside the limit. As a result, the Parish Council has applied to the Borough for the verges either side of Stevington to be cleaned before the grass grows and we are awaiting their response.



Stevington Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and the Parish Council is currently planning the activities and documentation required for the village consultation. The dates for the formal 7 week consultation period are 23rd April to 11th June.

Reminder - an early draft Neighbourhood Development Plan has been shared informally with the village via the dedicated website www.stevington.com as well as a printed copy being made available to view in the Community Shop during business hours.

Traffic Management Review

As part of the work on the traffic management review the Parish Council will be using their annual Ward Fund from Pat Olney, the Borough Councillor, to improve the pavements and highways around the centre of the village.

Windmill

The senior building surveyor from the Borough Council said that the extensive repairs carried out at the mill in Stevington means that it is possible to introduce grain, run the mill and produce flour. Look out for posters promoting visits to the windmill later in the year.

Pat Olney

Stevington Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Olney for her 33 years of service as the Oakley Ward Councillor, which includes the villages of Pavenham, Stevington and Oakley. During this time Pat has become a respected figure as a result of her tireless and dedicated service. She has helped many residents with individual interests and supported campaigns to protect the wider interests of North Bedfordshire. She will be missed in this role but we wish her a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Defibrillator Awareness Session (AED automated external defibrillation)

Now we have several defibrillators in the village the Parish Council has organised another AED awareness raising session.

This will take place **on Saturday 13 April in the village hall - 10am to noon**. We are hoping as many people as possible can attend.

Jane Thomas

Email: stevingtonpc@live.co.uk
Internet: <http://stevington.bedsparishes.gov.uk>
www.stevington.org.uk

BEDFORD BOROUGH NEWS

Council Tax 2019-2020

The council tax increases for the forthcoming year are as follows:

	Increase
Borough Council General tax	1.49%
Borough Council Adult Social Care Supplement	<u>1.00%</u>
Borough Council Total	2.49%
Parishes (Average)	2.50%
Fire and Rescue	2.99%
Police	<u>13.48%</u>
Overall Average	3.63%

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2021-2030

The Local Plan has been submitted to the inspector for consideration, and has now become the Emerging Local Plan. The plan will then have a public examination probably in the autumn/winter of 2020. If you wish to look at the final submission please go to www.bedford.gov.uk/localplan.

Elections - Register to Vote

On 2 May 2019 you have the opportunity to elect a Mayor, your Bedford borough councillor and parish councillors. If you are not already registered to vote you have until 12 April 2019 to do so. Please go to www.bedford.gov.uk/elections2019register-to-vote.

Oakley Ward Independent Borough Councillor

I will not be standing for election as a borough councillor this time. I have served on the Borough Council for 33 years. I wish to thank everyone for their support during these years. However I do still wish to serve Oakley for the next four years on the Parish Council and I will be standing for election to continue on the Oakley Parish Council.

Councillor Pat Olney

Telephone 01234 824384

Email pat.olney@bopenworld.com

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Stevington Magazine**

Stevington Guitar Concerts

Thank you to everyone who has been asking when the next concert will be. The answer is 2 November when Richard Smith, who resides in Nashville, will be making a return visit to Stevington. On his last visit to Stevington Richard surprised everyone inviting national treasures Chas and Dave to join him on stage. Sadly, one of the last times they played together.



Richard is without doubt one of the finest fingerstyle players in the world, he is hugely entertaining and technically brilliant. The proceeds of the event will be donated to the Alzheimer's Society at the request of Dave Walker. Tickets will be available from 1 September, they are expected to sell out, probably in record time.

I have several musicians on the radar that I think will lead to great concerts in Stevington. I was very close to booking Andy Fairweather Low but I couldn't get the ticket price down to an acceptable level due to the size of our venue. I have a handful of great players from the USA and Europe that I am negotiating with who are keen to come and visit us, typically negotiations take a year or two and then come together, or frustratingly fail at the last moment.

To make sure you are up to date with the latest news ensure you sign up for our newsletter by visiting our web site www.stevingtonguitarconcerts.co.uk or like Stevington Guitar Concerts Facebook page.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

John Duffield

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Stevington Parish Council



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STEVINGTON HISTORICAL TRUST

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The first three publications in the Trust's new series: *Stevington Historical Studies* are now becoming available:

1 *Thomas Orlebar Marsh Vicar of Stevington*

(Publication in late April)

Marsh was the longest serving of Stevington's Vicars (1776-1831). He was an antiquarian and a member of the Linnean Society of London. He corresponded with some of the leading naturalists of his generation.

50 pages in full colour 120gsm. Price £8.00

2 *Stevington Servicemen who Served in the Great War 1914-18*

(Available now)

This is an extended version of the lecture delivered by John Hirst and Peter Hart in the Village Hall on 21 November last year. It documents the service of Stevington men in the various theatres of the War, their losses, injuries and the hardships they experienced.

111 pages in full colour 120gsm. Price 12.00

3 *Biographies of Stevington Great War Servicemen with the Letters of Harry Read*

(Publication late March)

This is a companion volume to the Great War narrative and contains biographical details of every man and the one woman who served in uniform in the Great War along with many portrait photographs. Harry Read, headmaster of Stevington School, wrote 27 remarkable letters to Stevington men serving abroad. Ten letters have survived and they are reproduced here with transcriptions.

100 pages in full colour 120gsm. Price £10.00

Items 2 and 3 if bought together are priced at £20.00

Copies of all three publications can be ordered from:

- Peter Hart (01234 823586, peter2hart@btinternet.com)
- John Duffield (01234 822617, duffieldjc@aol.com)
- or at www.stevingtonhistoricaltrust.org.uk.

Peter Hart
Hon Secretary

The Friends of ST MARY'S CHURCH

Christmas seems so long ago but I must start our first article of 2019 by thanking everyone who supported our events over the Christmas period. The hugely enjoyable wreath making workshop lead by Anne Prigmore was a sell-out. At the Royal George Nigel hosted a great evening of carol singing with Bedford Brass, and finally to complete a busy end of year calendar we held a workshop for youngsters making decorations and printing wrapping paper.

The objective of Friends of St. Mary's Church is to raise funds for the repair and improvement of the church room and the church. We try to achieve this by organising events throughout the year that will appeal to everyone in our community and provide enjoyment for those who attend. Our first event this year was a Quiz & Chilli Evening. The event was a tremendous success. Mark Crisp, our independent quiz master, created great questions to test us. Our meal, prepared by FOSM volunteers, under the leadership of Chrissie Galley, was superb. Congratulations to team 'Universally Challenged' who won the event for the second year running. If they can do it again next year, they will keep the trophy. The event raised £814.

FOSM are extremely grateful for the donation of £460 from the



Avis Clayton Six Nations sweepstake. Paul O'Flynn organises this event which has made tremendous donations to FOSM each year since it began. His entertaining updates and spookily accurate predictions are now part and parcel of the Six Nations tournament for many of us. Thank you to everyone who enters the sweepstake.

Forthcoming events

Sunday 2 June - Open Gardens

On the afternoon of 2 June between 2pm and 4pm we will once again be holding Stevington Open Gardens.

We are holding an informal meeting at the church room on Tuesday 9 April at 5pm for anyone who might like to open their garden or support us on the day. There will be opportunities to ask questions and information for you to take away from the meeting. If you can't attend the meeting you can contact us at fosmteam@gmail.com.

This event was a tremendous success last year, we were blessed with gorgeous summer weather and lots of visitors. We are looking for gardens of all sorts, shapes and sizes, if you are tempted please do get in touch.

Saturday 22 June - A musical evening with Emma Field

Doors open 7pm. Show starts 7.30pm Emma grew up in Stevington and is Stephanie's daughter. She is an experienced performer in West End musicals and has kindly offered to bring her new show, 'Welcome to my World', to Stevington following the successful premiere in Weybridge. Emma will perform hits from a range of musicals and is accompanied by piano and saxophone.

Tickets are £15. Available from Steffie Field and Tricia Lennie or in the church room from late March. Licensed bar and raffle. Profits will go to support the work of FOSM. An event not to be missed!

To support FOSM you can become a member by completing a form available in the church room or online at stevington.org. You can provide support by attending our events and perhaps bringing some friends with you. If you would like to become more involved, we would be delighted to hear from you.

John Duffield

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STEVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

We have had a good start to the year with a very vigorous Burns Night. This was well attended, and tickets were in high demand. If you fancy a spin round to traditional Scottish Country dancing, and a plate of the best of Scottish cuisine, keep an eye out for the announcements next time. There is a piper (thanks to Richard Galley), Scottish Country Dancing (Linda Penney), a toast to the Haggis (Iain Morrison) and fun all round. Thanks once again to all of the helpers, Jean on the bar, Richard in the kitchen, Steve on the PC, Barbara on the door plus many, many more.

We are gearing up for the Road Race to be held 12 May. Once again our huge thanks to all of the volunteers that have already put their name forward, and more who will do so. If we can repeat the massive success of last year we will be delighted. Last year we got a lot of very warm praise from the runners on social media and the running websites, so our effort is worth it.

The AGM was held on 13 February and was well attended. We are pleased to announce that the hall continues to run at a small surplus, supported mostly by the Cinema Club, the 100 Club, events (the Road Race is a big contributor) and hires, including external. We are also delighted to see a new secretary (Linda Penney) and two fresh faces on the committee (Linda Rudd and Christine Holbrook). We are always very grateful for fresh ideas and skills.

One area we would like help with is the hall's social media advertising and general on-line development. This is all a bit alien to us. If there is anyone out there (possibly a teenager looking for experience - possibly D of E) that can help out and show us how we can improve what we are doing (not much) we would be most grateful. Our Facebook and Twitter skills are sadly lacking. Please get in contact with Steve (chair) or Linda (secretary) through the website (stevingtonvillagehall.org.uk).

That's all folks,

Roger Penney



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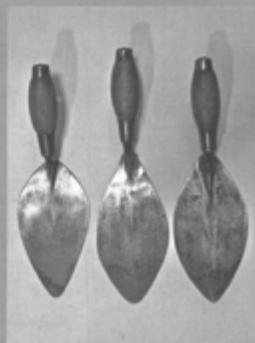
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BAPTIST NEWS

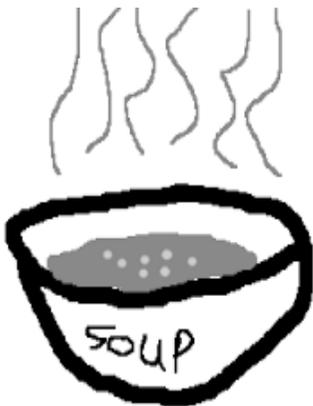


The Christmas Tree Festival proved popular when local Stevington organisations dressed trees to help make the church look delightful. Thank you to everyone who took part in decorating a tree. The decision has been made to make this a biennial event, alternating with the Scarecrow Festival which this year will take place in September. Watch out for further news announcing the date and giving details of the theme of the festival (and we promise it won't have anything to do with Brexit!)

Pancakes were flying everywhere in the hall on Shrove Tuesday when the church hosted its annual soup and pancake lunch. Carol had practised her skills at tossing pancakes and there were a good number of people there to enjoy the event.

Barbara Courtney
www.stevingtonbaptistchurch.org

LENT LUNCHES



St Mary's Church Room
Mondays - 25 March
and 1, 8, 15 April
12.30 to 1.30pm

Come and join us for delicious
home-made soup,
bread 'n' cheese and a natter

Donations to Christian Aid

If you would like transport, contact Jane 825578 or Tricia 825169

STEVINGTON MARKS THE CENTENARY OF THE END OF THE GREAT WAR

Last summer the Parochial Church Council decided to mark the centenary of the day the Great War ended, 11 November 1918. Twelve Stevington men who lost their lives in that conflict are commemorated on the War Memorial at St Mary's. We decided to acquire 12 commemorative silhouettes (the cost of which was defrayed by the Parish Council) and to station them at strategic points in the village in the days leading up to 11 November. On the day of the open-air service at St Mary's the silhouettes were collected from their locations and brought to the memorial by representatives of village organisations and by individuals who had a family connection with one of the fallen. Steve Cowley carried a silhouette in memory of his uncle, Albert.

We also asked the Historical Trust if they would join in the commemoration and they offered to mount an exhibition and deliver a lecture to celebrate the part Stevington servicemen (and one woman) played in the War.

In the 1970s Paul Middleton and the late Alan Edwards managed to collect from village families over 40 photographs of Stevington men who served in the War. These photographs formed the basis of the exhibition which was supplemented by historical summaries of the events in which the men took part in the various theatres of the War. The exhibition was set out in the Church Room and attracted many visitors over the ten days it was on display. One visitor, Karen Fletcher, produced out of the blue a photograph of her forebear, Fred Hulett, who was killed on the Somme and which was immediately added to the exhibition. Half a dozen of the photographs collected forty years ago had lost their name tags, if they ever had them, but research enabled the Historical Trust to identify one of them as Bill Harris's grandfather. Carol Waring and her brother Steve produced photographs of their forebear Fred Aspley who survived. The exhibition was sponsored by the Parish Council.

The other event staged by the Historical Trust was a lecture given by John Hirst and Peter Hart in the Village Hall on 22 November. The wartime headmaster of Stevington School, Harry Read, wrote 27 letters to the men serving in France, the Middle East and East Africa. Ten have survived and they enabled John and Peter to form a fairly accurate view of where each man was serving at any stage in the War, the battles in which they fought and the deaths, injuries and privations they sustained.

Thus, moving through the four years of the War John and Peter put into historical context the lives of the Stevington men serving away from home. The lecture was attended by over eighty people.

Events such as this sometimes produce surprising results. One person present at the lecture, David Taylor, has made a study of the Great War and he identified for the Trust a further 12 Stevington men who lost their lives in the conflict. They had been overlooked because they are commemorated on war memorials elsewhere as they or their families had moved from Stevington. The Historical Trust has now published a booklet, Stevington Servicemen Who Served in the Great War, which covers and develops the scope of the lecture and includes the latest details of the 24 fallen.

Frances Hirst
Secretary - St Mary's Stevington PCC



ROYAL GEORGE

It has been a busy and hugely successful winter for the pub teams. The dart players have won division 2 of the Bedfordshire Independent Winter Darts League. Many congratulations to Dave Taylor, Jake Wagstaff, Martin Williams, Jim Sinfield, Mark Henson, Toby Haggerwood, Gareth King, James Surtees, Paul Thompson and Colin Macmillan.

At the time of writing the skittlers are leading the Ouse Valley League with two matches remaining. The final outcome will go right down to the wire with Thurleigh Club hot on our heels. We wish the team the best of luck as they seek to secure their elusive first title.

Shane has written elsewhere about the fantastic success of Stevington FC becoming the first Bedfordshire County League team to win the prestigious Beds FA Senior Trophy. The 4-0 win over Wilstead was an emphatic performance and was duly celebrated at the George until the early hours - apologies to the neighbours.

Finally I'd like to thank my customers for their continued support.

Nigel Stead

**STOP
Dog Fouling
on our
playing field**



We have a continuing issue with dog mess left by irresponsible dog walkers on the Playing Field in Stevington.

Despite all the notices this problem persists.

Children are particularly at risk as they often play on the ground or in soil where worm eggs may be present (in parks, sandpits etc.) **In one study 66% of soil samples from parks in a major city were positive for Toxocara eggs: a cause of blindness**

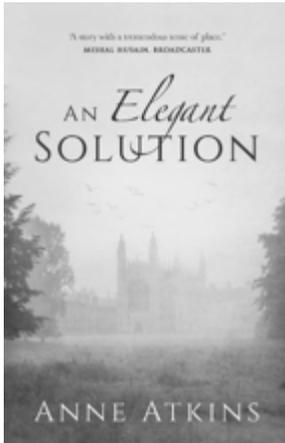
**Did you know worm
eggs can cause
Blindness?**



**Please help and
KEEP STEVINGTON PLAYING
FIELD CLEAN FOR EVERYONE
NO DOG FOULING**

STEVINGTON WRITERS' GROUP

There were 12 registered members for the 2018-2019 year and the group has gone from strength to strength with new members joining us for 2019-2020. Meeting in Malcolm and Sally's barn provides privacy and comfort and there is no doubt that this has helped the group to grow in confidence. Bob Collins and Tricia Lennie have worked in tandem to lead the group, which has given us a broader range of approaches. Bob has provided technical and moral support to writers as



well as designing a website to share writing in between meetings. Meeting monthly, we read writing we admire, complete writing stimulus exercises and discuss work in progress which led us to submit entries for a short story competition and to intentions to produce a small pamphlet of our own.

To celebrate our second AGM we hosted a dinner in The Red Lion where Anne Atkins, author of 'An Elegant Solution' was our after-dinner speaker. Anne spoke inspiringly about her own writing habits, including how to deal with

'writers' block', her blog, work for BBC Radio 4 and her new novel, answering insightful questions from members and guests and signing copies of her book. It was such good fun that we have few pictures and can only offer you one in which I appear to be setting fire to her book (© Malcolm Macdonald). We look forward to 2019-2020 and take new members only now, at the beginning of the year. If you are interested, please contact either Bob (robert.j.collins@btinternet.com) or Tricia (tricia.lennie21@gmail.com).

Tricia Lennie





Lent Course in Church Room Stevington

Christ and the Chocolaterie

You are most welcome to join our series of five informal talks during Lent, during which we discuss and share insights on Christian faith. This year our focus is **Christ and the Chocolaterie**, inspired by the film *Chocolat* and based on the book by Joanne Harris. The course looks to be innovative and lively! Using the film as a starting point, issues about God, the world and what it means to be human are explored. Your opinions and thoughts count!

Every Monday 18 March to 15 April at 7pm

Any questions contact Jane 825578 or jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com



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BEDFORD SAILING CLUB



Our 2019 season starts with the Club AGM on 27 March at 8pm in the Royal George, however some of our members have been using the club throughout the winter.

We hope to have a great year at the river, some glorious sunny days, swimming, paddling, rowing or just taking in the river with a BBQ and a drink. Cooler days can be just as rewarding. The wild life and the sunsets

by the river can be magnificent.

The club is now open for membership applications, and this remains an absolute bargain with free use of club boats to sail, row, scull, kayak, canoe or swim. Alternatively, a BBQ and a drink by the river is good!

We provide free canoeing and rowing tasters which are suitable for complete beginners and more advanced paddlers, so why not come down and give it a go!

For more information or to book for a free session please contact:

Sailing, canoeing or kayaking:

Dave Brear daveabrear@aol.com 07929 265671

Rowing or sculling:

Hugo van Kempen hugovankempen0@gmail.com 01234 824894

Dave Brear

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STEVINGTON SOCIAL CENTRE 100 CLUB

Winners of the last three draws are as follows:

Dec	1st	№ 81	Sara & David Heatherington
	2nd	№ 42	Malcolm McDonald
	3rd	№ 36	Christine Sear
	4th	№ 21	Hillary O'Dell
	Hamper	№ 72	James Pease

Jan	1st	№ 63	Graham Follet
	2nd	№ 13	Barbara Collins
	3rd	№ 38	Pete Fisher
	4th	№ 2	Roger Penney

Feb	1st	№ 45	Albert Markham
	2nd	№ 74	Rosie Stanbridge
	3rd	№ 88	Jenny & Steve Cumming
	4th	№ 4	Joan & Peter Hart



The 100 Club Lottery raises funds for Stevington Village Hall and since its inception has raised thousands of pounds with the proceeds being split between the Village Hall and the lucky winners in a monthly prize-draw with a top prize of £100, making it a very attractive lottery for YOU!

Investing £60 per year, that's only £5 per month, you have the chance of winning one of four cash prizes, whilst helping to keep your local village hall in good order.

The 100 Club currently has some numbers available and if you are interested in joining please contact Hugo on 01234 824894, email Hugovankempen0@gmail.com or fill in the form below and send to 14 West End, Stevington, MK43 7QU.

Name.....Telephone:.....

Address.....

Please tick the appropriate box:

- I enclose £60 cash.
- I enclose a Cheque for £60 payable to Stevington Social Centre.
- I enclose £5 cash for the 1st month. Please let me know bank details so I can set up a standing order.



STEVINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

We are extremely pleased and proud to report that both our First Team and Reserve Team have been playing really well in their respective Premier and Third Divisions of the Bedfordshire County Football League.



The league statistics at mid-March being are as follows:

First Team - 4th in league of 16 clubs - played 21, won 10, drawn 4, lost 7, scored 58 goals, conceded 39 goals, +19 goal difference with 34 points.

Reserve Team - 11th in league of 16 clubs - played 21, won 9, drawn 1, lost 11, scored 49 goals, conceded 47 goals, +2 goal difference with 27 points.

The relatively good weather since Christmas has meant that there have been very few games called off for waterlogged or frozen pitches so both teams have been able to keep their positive momentum and results going.

There is a really positive feeling in the club right now with both teams playing attractive and good passing football, with players enjoying their games and getting their deserved results. It's no coincidence this comes after seeing improved attendance at training for both teams in comparison to previous seasons. This has meant both teams have been able to consistently field strong sides with an equally talented and full substitutes bench. It is absolutely essential now that both divisions allow teams to have 5 'roll-on and roll-off' substitutes - the improved availability of players has certainly given the management teams of both sides some selection headaches, especially in recent and upcoming cup fixtures.

Now talking of cup competitions, we have some great news to report for both teams:

On 6 March Stevington FC First Team became the first ever Bedfordshire County Football League club to lift the Bedfordshire FA Senior Trophy! Under the floodlights of Bedford Town's Eyrie Ground with a crowd of nearly 300 supporters we beat fellow Bedfordshire County League club Wilstead FC 4-0.

Wilstead attacked us immediately after kick off requiring a reflex save from goalie Jack Cunningham in the first 30 seconds to prevent a shock goal. However, we regained composure and took the lead in the sixteenth minute with a bullet header from Tommy Roberts, announced on the PA system as a goal by Ben Walsh (to his great delight). The lead was doubled just eight minutes from the break by another headed goal from Tommy Roberts. It was game up for Wilstead in the sixty-first minute when Billy Pinney's shot from wide out on the right flank made it 3-0. Billy then netted his second of the night and our fourth from a quickly taken short corner with the watch showing ninety-two minutes. A fantastic result for the 17 man squad on the night, it was such a shame that rolling substitutes are not allowed in the Bedfordshire's Senior County Cup Competition at this level - so some of the lads weren't able to get on the pitch.

Ben Walsh proudly lifting the Bedfordshire Football Association Senior Trophy (County Cup), the very first Bedfordshire County Football League club captain to do so.



Stevington FC - Very proud winners of the Bedfordshire Football Association Senior Trophy Cup (County Cup).

The good cup news doesn't stop there though. The Reserve team are also doing really well in the Watson Shield (League Cup). They play Bedford Albion Reserves at home on 30 March and we hope to see the village turn out on the day and give them their support - it really helps lift the team!

With both teams doing so well this season we are extremely keen to be able to get the First Team playing their home games back in the village. We will be consulting with the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to see what changes can be made to meet the Bedfordshire County Football League Standards for teams competing in the Premier League.

Unfortunately, fairly extensive works are required to provide larger and improved changing and shower facilities for the teams and to provide a separate changing and showering facilities for the referee. The Club will be liaising with the Bedfordshire Football Association to see what funding support is available to facilitate these improvements. It's no wonder that 'grass roots football' is struggling to survive when amateur village sides need to comply with all this red tape!

I'd like to conclude by thanking the other team within our club, the 'Boot Room Team' who volunteer to commit lots of time and effort week in week out to ensure the club can field our two teams.

The 'Boot Room Team' this season are Aaron Coker and Steve Scott (First and Reserve Team managers respectively), Darren King (Assistant Manager), Duncan Victorin (Trainer and Conditioning Coach), Steff Watts (Linesman), Martin Williams (Coaching Support and Noise Abatement Advisor), Clinton Tatham (Motivational Coach), Pete 'the Mod' (Chief Supporter with football rattle - and not afraid to use it), Gareth King (Secretary, Groundsman, Kit Washer etc.) and Roger Easingwood.

Also, a sincere thank you to everyone for their continued interest and support in the village football club. And a special thanks to Nigel and the Royal George team for their continued support and sponsorship after all our matches, hosting our Christmas party and final celebrations.



Nigel with Cup

Finally, I'd like to think that both the fantastic football results on Wednesday 6 March 2019 were written in the stars. Stevington's cup win and Manchester United's great win in Paris were on the birthday of a true club stalwart, Dennis King, who was involved with the club for over 50 years. His commitment alongside the likes of Alan and Shay Cox, Norman Beesley, Alan Woods, Johnny Pepper, Roger Watson etc. remain the backbone and principles of the club. We are now the longest serving club (without a break) in the Bedfordshire County Football League, previously the Bedford and District League.



Following on in Dennis's footsteps.

The club was saddened to hear of the loss of another former player from the village, Bill Wills-Moren, and pass on sincere condolences to Sue, Julie and their families at this sad time.

We have said sad farewells to a number of club members and supporters over recent months. It's always tough, but especially so, when it is someone closely associated with the club and a passion for football.

The club is therefore hosting a charity fund raising football tournament and evening event around Father's Day in aid of the Sue Ryder home at Moggerhanger. The event is being led by Aaron Coker, our first team manager, the idea being that as many fathers/sons/daughters be involved as possible. Further updates will be available in due course and we look forward to your anticipated support.

Shane King

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ST. MARY'S MATTERS

St. Mary's is a member of the Chellington Team Ministry. The Team Clergy are the Revd. Jacqueline Curtis and the Revd. Peter Turnbull, who live at 3, The Moor, Carlton MK43 7JR. Tel: 01234 720961 or email: chellingtonteam@gmail.com. If you need them or require a pastoral visit at home, please don't hesitate to make contact. For general enquiries contact the Team Office in Carlton. Email teamoffice@gmail.com or tel: 01234 720262.

2019 seems to be moving apace - the snowdrops in the churchyard have flourished and nodded their heads to some lovely spring days and, with lighter mornings and evenings, we can feel more cheerful and hopeful.



Reflecting on the past year, the important thing that comes to mind is people's goodwill and willingness to help and support St. Mary's - whether that is helping at services, organising and singing in the choir, supporting FOSM's events, making cakes for teas or lending a helping hand to people in our village. Thanks to you all.

Looking ahead:

Lent Course - Christ and the Chocolaterie

Even though the course may be underway when you read this, you are most welcome to join our series of informal talks during Lent, during which we discuss and share insights on Christian faith.

This year our focus is 'Christ and the Chocolaterie', inspired by the film 'Chocolat' and based on the book by Joanne Harris. The course looks to be innovative and lively! Using the film as a starting point, issues about God, the world and what it means to be human are explored. Your opinions and thoughts count! Every Monday 18 March to 15 April at 7pm. Any questions contact Jane 825578 or jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com.

Lent Lunches

Come and join us for delicious home-made soup, bread 'n cheese and a natter. St. Mary's Church Room. Mondays 25 March and 1, 8 & 15 April. 12.30 to 1.30pm. Donations to Christian Aid.

If you would like transport, contact Jane 825578 or Tricia 825169.

Mothing Sunday Afternoon Service

Sunday 31 March at 4pm

A chance to get together to reflect and celebrate different aspects of mothering and caring in our community and to thank all those who support and help St. Mary's.



Easter Services

Good Friday 19 April 2pm - 3pm

A service of prayer and contemplation, with music from Bach's 'St Matthew Passion'.

Easter Sunday 21 April 9.30am

Our choir will lead our service.

Kathy Brown's Garden opens on Monday 22 April. Please come and support afternoon teas in the Church Room in aid of St. Mary's. If you would like to help or make a cake, that would be lovely too!

Church Room Development - Progress Report

You will be aware that the PCC of St. Mary's Stevington has been working together with The Friends of St. Mary's to pursue much needed improvements to the Church Room. A grant bid to the Garfield Weston Anniversary Fund in 2018 was unsuccessful and it transpires that all grant providers want planning permission to be in place as a condition of funding.

Undaunted, the committees are now progressing towards a planning application for disabled access, improved storage and linkage of the toilet and main blocks. Although the application will cover all aspects, it is likely that the work would progress in stages due to funding constraints. Grants will need to be applied for and successfully obtained. Disabled access is the top priority, followed by improved storage and linkage of the toilet block. A specialist conservation architect has been engaged and Rogan Geary has kindly helped with surveying the drains prior to the preliminary planning application drawings.

As anyone who has ever submitted a planning application will know, we must prepare a variety of different specialist reports (trees, drains, archaeology, historic and conservation statements). We are fortunate that The Friends of St. Mary's have been saving for this project and are willing to underwrite the initial costs of the planning application.

However, as all money is hard earned through fund-raising in the village, if you have any specialist skills that you can offer we would be extremely grateful to hear from you.

The aim is to prepare and submit an application during 2019.

Parochial Electoral Roll

This is the time of year when the Parish Electoral Roll is updated and renewed. If you would like to be included on the roll, please contact Jane O'Connor.

Don't forget to surf the web. As people become more familiar with our website, it will make a big difference to our communication channels - www.stmarysstevington.org.uk. If you would like to receive information about St. Mary's and events by email, please contact Jane at jojo2.oconnor@gmail.com.

From the Registers

Baptism: 3 March 2018

Teddy John Harry Smith

Jane O'Connor & Robert Eadie, Churchwardens



THE FOREST OF MARSTON VALE - WHAT'S ON

Sunday Strolls (7 April, 5 May, 2 June)

A gentle Sunday walk. Meet at reception at 10.15am. Walk lasts approx. 2 hours. Free but donations welcome. No need to book. Call 01234 767037 for details.

Become a Volunteer

If you are interested email jo.roberts@marstonvale.org or call 01234 762608.

Health Walks (Wednesdays 10.30am)

Free, no need to book. Most walks start at reception but some elsewhere - see noticeboard or ring 01234 767037 to confirm.



Special Events:

For information about what's on including Bird Walks, Easter Holiday activities and the Forest 5k run on 7 June visit: www.marstonvale.org/events.html

STEVINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
TODAY'S WOMEN WORKING FOR TOMORROWS WORLD



Our December meeting was a 'bring and share' party at which mulled wine was also served. All members had time for catching up with news. At the meeting we discussed the resolutions put forward for next year's campaign and members were asked to vote for their preferred resolution the results of which would be sent to WI House. We also discussed the programme being planned for next year. A list of possible talks and activities was provided and members were asked to tick their preferences.

In January our speaker was Beverley Bond who gave a very interesting talk on woodland edge gardening. She explained that she lives in the middle of a wood and a few of the slides that accompanied her talk were in fact taken in her garden. She provided members with lists of suitable plants and shrubs for this particular type of gardening.

On Tuesday 15 January a local walk was arranged and attended by some our members.

The subject of our February speaker was 'Improving your memory'. Sallie Crawley supplied us with tips on remembering people's names which we all seem to struggle with at some time in our lives. The main theme of her talk was to stay positive and adopt a 'you can do it' attitude to life.

On Saturday 9 February two members once again attended the speakers audition day which proved to be useful in planning our programme for future years.

We again took part in the County quiz at the end of February - sport and 70's music not being our strong points!

We also took part in the village quiz on 2 March organised by the Friends of St. Mary's, helped by one or two 'friends' of WI - a very enjoyable evening with delicious food.

Dates for your Diary:

Thu 11 Apr Family lawyers are almost human - Duncan Willox
Thu 25 Apr Group meeting at Carlton Village Hall - 7pm
Mon 29 Apr Annual Council Meeting
Thu 9 May Annual Meeting

Advance notice:

We will be holding a plant and produce stall on Saturday 18 May.

Visitors are welcome to our meetings (cost £5) and details can be found on our noticeboard in the Church Room.

Marilyn Billett



**PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND
LAUNCH NATIONAL CERVICAL
SCREENING CAMPAIGN**



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

From Tuesday 5 March until Sunday 28 April Public Health England will launch the first ever national cervical screening campaign targeted at women who are eligible for screening (those aged 25 to 64).

Around 2,600 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in England each year and around 690 women die from the disease. It is estimated that if everyone attended screening regularly 83% of cervical cancer cases could be prevented. Unfortunately attendance is at a 20-year low, with one in four women in the UK not attending their cervical screening.

The campaign will raise awareness of the risks of cervical cancer and highlight the preventative benefits of screening, encouraging women to respond to their screening invitation letters, and if they missed previous invites, to book an appointment. The campaign also aims to tackle a number of the identified barriers to screening, including concern that it might be painful and embarrassing.

Councillor Louise Jackson said 'cervical cancer is largely preventable thanks to cervical screening and HPV vaccination. Screening allows for the detection of cervical cancer at an early stage and the programme is estimated to save 4500 lives every year. It is important that we use every opportunity to encourage women to accept their invitation when they receive it.'

For more information on cervical screening, visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/ or check out our twitter (HealthyBedford) or Facebook (HealthyBedfordBorough).



STEVINGTON CINEMA SCREENING DIARY

Date	Screening	Production	Type
2 Apr	La Forza Del Destino	The Royal Opera	Live
4 Apr	Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again		Film
11 Apr	All About Eve	National Theatre	Live
17 Apr	As You Like It	Royal Shakespeare Theatre	Live
30 Apr	Faust	The Royal Opera	Live
2 May	Manon Des Sources		Film
16 May	Within the Golden Hour / New Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Flight Pattern		
		The Royal Ballet	Live
30 May	All My Sons	National Theatre	Live
5 Jun	The Taming of the Shrew	Royal Shakespeare Theatre	Live
6 Jun	TBA		Film
11 Jun	Romeo and Juliet	The Royal Ballet	Live
20 Jun	The Merry Wives of Windsor		
		Shakespeare's Globe	Live
27 Jun	Small Island	National Theatre	Live
31 Jul	Measure for Measure	National Theatre	Live

Please check www.stevingtoncinemaclub.uk for details of dates, screening times, tickets etc. as they may be subject to change.



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LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE DOGS!

Congratulations to Keith and Heather for the December edition of the magazine. It shows that so much had gone on in the last few months - the centenary of the Great War and Tommy Crosland, the Red Lion opening, the Stevington road race, football and Parish Council updates among many others. The Christmas Greetings are always very special - all together a very good read. We must not forget the support from the advertisers who I believe generate quite a lot of business from readers of the village mag.

These are all named by the individual contributors and rightly so. Apart from one and amongst all this joyous reading was the one that keeps popping up from an unnamed source. The menace of the dog poo (my dad never called it that). I walk my dog every day along with lots of other village people and I very rarely see any uncollected poo. I do however see a lot of food packaging and plastic bottles which I also pick up and put in the bin provided which is usually nearby. I don't think I am alone among the dog owners who are being marginalised about this so-called problem. However you bang on about it with threats of horrendous fines the rare dog owner who offends probably does not read the magazine and even if they do it will make no difference.

As a dog owner I can only talk about the joy of a dog sharing your home. Winnie is a wonderful companion both to me and Brian and she takes her role of carer to Brian very seriously. I know of many people in the village who share these views. Terry who lost his beloved wife is now sharing his home with a feisty little rescue dog who Terry also takes on holiday in his caravan. I said to Terry what a lucky little dog she is and he replied 'no I am the lucky one'.

Bob and Anna Hart provided a home for an enchanting little dog they have named Honey. She arrived from Cyprus unable to speak a word of English and she has settled in very well and has made friends with the other dogs she meets on her walks.

There are many people not just in the village who adopt a rescue dog and it's a wonderful and rewarding thing to do.

Having a dog can also lead to romance. Gary, previously of the Royal George, met a lovely lady out walking their dogs and later married her. The advice there is give up internet dating and just get a dog. I know there are many lovely people who would not dream of having an animal share their home - for one thing a dog can never be trained to wipe their feet when they enter the house.

However let's live and let live. When I read about the oceans being choked with plastic and the terrible devastation from irresponsible iron ore owners in Brazil, I do think we are lucky.

Just be reassured that if you meet me or any one of the regular dog walkers we will show you a pocketful of poo bags.

Anne Westbrook



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT OUR LOCAL PARKS



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford Borough Council's customer satisfaction surveys for Priory Country Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park are now open.

The customer satisfaction survey asks park users what they like about the parks and also invites them to suggest any improvements. The survey responses collected will be used to help guide the future management of the park.

Priory Country Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park are both Green Flag Award winners, which recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces across the U.K and abroad. In 2018, Priory Country Park won the Award for the seventeenth year in a row.

Cllr Charles Royden, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport said 'It is fantastic that our parks have been recognised at a national level, but it is also vital that our local parks are meeting the needs of the people who use them and local residents. Please let us know what you think and help us to ensure that everyone has access to quality green spaces.

The survey for Priory Country Park is available at <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/pcp> and for Harrold-Odell Country Park at <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/hocp>. The closing date for both surveys is 30 April 2019.

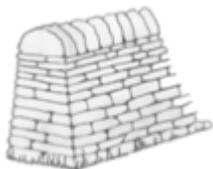
Hard copies are also available from local libraries, the Customer Service Centre, Borough Hall, and at the cafes at Priory Country Park and Harrold-Odell Country Park.

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STEVINGTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB

Hello Stevington - here is the latest update on our club. At present we have 15 members on our books so there is room for more! Attendance has been rather inconsistent over the last few months mainly due to weather, holidays, illness etc. Hopefully it will pick up again.



We have at last managed to complete one of our knockout competitions - the pairs. Winners were Bill Harris and Jonathan Roff. The final was closely contested and because it was so tight a final extra end had to be played.

We have managed to start our singles competition which, with luck, should be finished by our AGM on 29 April 2019.

The club will be closed on the following bank holidays:

- April 22 Easter Monday
- May 6 Early Spring Bank Holiday
- May 27 Late Spring Bank Holiday.

The members meet at the village hall every Monday (except Bank Holidays) at 7.00pm for two hours. It is a decent social evening.

Please come along, no need to ring first, first two visits free. Hope to see you soon.

Barbara Collins



THE CHURCH ROOM ACCIDENT BOOK

As far as I can determine, the last entry was 12 years ago:

'31 Aug 2007 11:30am

Cynthia Keach - cut finger. Handle came off cup while washing up.

Witnessed by June Homer.

Cut cleaned and bandaged by Tony Homer.

Tony Homer then cut hand on same cup - while disposing of it!

Extracted by Robert Eadie

COMPETITION WINNING PHOTOGRAPH OF STEVINGTON WINDMILL

John O'Reilly grew up in Lavendon so he knows Stevington quite well. He is a member of a camera club called 'Inspire' and at his suggestion they visited Stevington Windmill in August and everyone really enjoyed the evening. John won a competition with his photograph of Stevington Windmill and has submitted the following comments.

'It was great to see so many different interpretations from a composition point of view. I myself love landscapes so try to photograph either at first or last light (commonly known as the 'Golden Hour'). The main feature I was trying to achieve was obviously this wonderful old windmill set against a beautiful sky, and on this night it didn't disappoint.



The competition I entered was entitled 'Old World Technology' and had 933 entries from 648 photographers from all around the world, each photographer then voted for their favourite by scoring either 0, 1, 2 or 3.

I won I think because it is sometimes difficult to get the subject in the foreground (the windmill) lit up when shooting against a bright dramatic sky like this.

We are a small friendly club based in Northampton, currently 16 members but some years we have been up to 20. Membership is £60 per year but we welcome guests if they would like to pop along. If anyone in the village wants to come along let me know first. We meet every Thursday evening between 7.00 and 9.00pm in Far Cotton. Currently we have a couple of our members who live in Milton Keynes, so people do travel.'

John O'Reilly. oreillyjohn54@gmail.com

The Stevington Wavelength project was launched in January after eighteen months of negotiation and grant applications. The project was initiated and facilitated by Friends of St. Mary's Church but is not being managed by them. It is a community project where villagers informally help each other to develop their skills and knowledge to be able to use IT to communicate with friends and family and benefit from online facilities.

Following successful bids to Wavelength charity and the Mayor's Community Chest charity, broadband has been installed into the Church Room and four tablets and a smart TV have been donated to the project.



The project is open to anyone, it meets once a month on a Saturday morning between 11.00am and 12.30pm. To date we have looked at WhatsApp as a way of keeping in touch with friends and family, how to share pictures and videos and the big issue of cookies, what they do and how to manage them. Alongside looking at these we have run a subgroup for absolute beginners and a clinic for device issues e.g. how to turn off apps, locked screens etc.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 6 April. Anyone is welcome to turn up, you can let us know if there are any issues that you would like us to look at by sending an email to duffieldjc@aol.com or by filling in an interest form and posting it in our letter box in the Church Room (actually it's a shoe box next to the piano, how high tech!)

To date the sessions have been well attended and enjoyable. You will be assured of a warm welcome as a student or a helper. We ask for a donation of £1.00 a session for coffee and biscuits. Dates for meetings will be posted in the Church Room, next to the shoe box!

John Duffield

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Month	Rubbish	Recycling	Green
March	26		
April	9, 23	2, 16, 30	2, 16, 30
May	7, 21	14, 28	14, 28
June	4, 18	11, 25	11, 25

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

COLLECTION OF BULKY WASTE

Sunday 23 June 2019

Please take your domestic waste to the following locations:

West End	08.30am until 09.00am
Playing Field	09.00am until 10.00am
Crossroads, Church Road	10.00am until 11.00am
Burridges Close	11.00am until 12.00pm
Foxbrook	12.00pm until 12.30pm

Times are approximate to allow for travel between sites

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE RUBBISH AT THE SITE IF
THE COLLECTION VEHICLES ARE NOT THERE**

IT IS FLY-TIPPING WITH BIG FINES

Please **do not** bring the following materials for disposal via this scheme:

- Acids
- Asbestos
- Batteries
- Clinical Waste
- Medicines
- Fluorescent Lamps
- Gas Cylinders
- Lead Sheeting
- Oil
- Paraffin
- Petrol/Diesel
- Creosote
- Toner Cartridges
- Plasterboard
- Gypsum
- Tyres
- Fridges & Freezers

Harrold-Odell Country Park

Carlton Road, Harrold, MK43 7DS

EASTER EGG TRAIL



Easter Monday April 22nd

10.00am - 12.00pm

or

1.00pm - 3.00pm

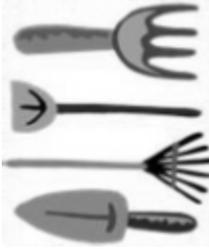
Max of 25 places per session

£2.50 per head

Pre-booking is essential

**Tel. 01234 720016 or email
janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk**

**Solve the clues along the trail around
the big lake and win an Easter Egg.**



GARDENING TIPS AND INSPIRATION FROM PARK END THATCH

With this amazing mild February attributed to climate change, we may need to change our winter gardening habits. February to the end of March are known as the 'hungry gap' for wild birds as food in the fields becomes scarce, put out wild bird food products and fresh water. I understand hedgehogs will come out of hibernation in a warm spell, if they do not eat and drink then they will die. Hedgehogs will eat dry cat biscuits and need a dish of fresh water close by. Last autumn I found muddy paw marks a hedgehog had left on the sides of the garden water dish and have seen a Robin collecting hair and found tufts of dog hair in a nest in one of our bird boxes - four nests here last year.

MARCH

Thoroughly ventilate plants under glass and water their soil on sunny mornings. Remove bubble-wrap protection from around pots and be ready to replace if weather turns cold. Cut early spring blossoms for the house and move pots of crocus and *Iris reticulata* into the sunshine.

If you are still in 'catch up' mode from a chilly winter, check now to see if you still need to deal with moss in your lawn and get the job done before the middle of the month. Begin regular mowing on dry days once the grass starts growing. Use turf to patch worn areas of lawn.

Some of us leave all the cutting back of herbaceous perennials until March to help insects overwinter under the cover of spent foliage. This waste material is ideal for adding to your garden compost bin or heap. New shoots of herbaceous perennials will begin to emerge if there is a warm spell this month so take care when cutting low down and protect those leaf buds. Lift and divide plants such as *Geum*, geraniums, *Persicaria* and *Phlox*.

Last chance to spray your apple and pear branches with winter wash to keep the troublesome woolly aphid at bay. This pest hides in the cracks of old wood and pruning scars and can kill an elderly tree.

Weeds will begin to emerge this month. If you get into the habit of hoeing them when they are just at seedling stage throughout the summer, the job of controlling them will be much easier.

Coppice *Cornus* and *Salix* to stimulate colourful young stems for next winter.

Plant evergreen trees, hedging and shrubs. Put in stakes to support the taller plants in borders.

Early potatoes are delicious if you have some spare ground, chit them by standing in an egg box and when the shoots are 1cm long plant them 30cms deep. Plant onion sets and shallots. Late in the month sow seeds of leeks, carrots, broad beans and peas directly into the ground as soil begins to warm.

Repot houseplants which have become pot-bound or need dividing into clean pots with fresh compost. Feed and begin watering them with fresh rainwater.

Creatures will be emerging from hibernation: toads from their shallow excavations, hedgehogs from their dry nests and mice and shrews will be more active.

APRIL

This is the ideal month for sowing a wide range of vegetables directly into the soil. Prepare an area of fine soil, make a drill with the end of a piece of cane for each type of vegetable and sow carrots, turnips, peas, broad beans and spinach. Protect all new shoots from frost.

If you have a greenhouse, sow French beans, squash and courgette into individual pots and grow on to transplant in the third week of May when frost has passed. Also, leeks and brassicas, unless you have a seedbed ready for them. Ventilate greenhouses and cold-frames on warm days.

Finish tidying borders, pull up weeds, divide and transplant herbaceous perennials, water new plantings, feed with Growmore, put in stakes and then mulch with your home made compost. Penstemon, Caryopteris and Artemesia can all be cut back towards the end of the month.

Summer flowering bulbs and corms such as alliums, eucomis, lilies, cannas, dahlias and gladioli should be planted in pots or borders now. Water all new plantings in dry weather.

Feed roses, soft fruit and container plants with general purpose fertilizer, diluted liquor made from fresh comfrey leaves left to decay in a lidded bucket or mulch with well rotted manure.

On poor soil feed borders with Growmore, irrigate and then mulch with home-made compost.

New rose leaves may display black spot, a cosmetic problem which also causes leaves to fall prematurely. Remove the worst of the leaves, pick up all fallen rose leaves and burn. Sprinkle a sulphur dust around the plant to help fight the problem.

Keep all newly planted trees, hedges and shrubs watered until established.

MAY

Deadhead fading daffodils, sprinkle around the foliage with bone-meal and leave the leaves to die naturally. Next year you should get more flowers.

Start liquid feeding houseplants and all those containers outside.

This month weeds will grow as fast as the precious seeds and new plants you have put into the ground. Hand weeding and careful hoeing on a weekly basis is recommended.

Now that you are regularly cutting your lawn, this is the time to apply the high nitrogen feed and selective lawn weed granules. If you have just a few weeds try the Verdone lawn weed-killer hand spray treatment.

Check your seed packets to see which should be sown where and when. Keep young plants watered in dry weather. Earth up potatoes. Continue successional sowing. Sow lettuces in module trays and plant out straight into empty sunny spaces in your garden. Towards the end of May plant out those vegetable modules and protect from any late frost with fleece as with all new shoots from tender plants which you have in your garden.

Those lilies you planted will be attracting the scarlet lily beetles to their fresh growth, pick off the beetles and squeeze them! Find slugs and snails on the lawn by torchlight and relocate them away from your garden.

Many garden birds feed their young with aphids and caterpillars. Parent birds need us to provide them with fresh water to drink and bathe in. Put out feeders full of sunflower kernels for the adults to keep their energy levels up while they search for appropriate food for their nestlings.

Please let me know if there is a subject you would like me to write about, by email to susanyoung@btconnect.com or contact the editors.

Susan Young

Stevington Baptist Church



Here to serve, support and encourage our community: seeking to bring fun and joy to church life

Sundays at 10.45 – **Morning Worship**

Mondays – **Sewing Group**

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Scarecrow Festival

Look out for further details and the theme of the festival

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*Based on a lawn size of 40m²

THAT WAS THE NEWS THAT WAS

The Huntingdon, Bedford and Peterborough Gazette, and Independent Press - 07/04/1827 – Mrs. Parrott, an elderly woman, the wife of a woodman residing at Stevington, in this county, a few days since took her husband's axe (a very sharp one) for the purpose of chopping the band of a faggot: having placed her foot on it to keep it steady, she unfortunately missed her aim, and, striking her foot, inflicted a dreadful wound, and separated most of the sinews near the instep. From the great loss of blood she is reduced to a very weak condition, and from the state of the wound and her great age, her recovery is considered doubtful.

The Bedford Times & Bedfordshire Independent – 25/02/1865 - Beer and Poultry – James Rowney, George Hulatt, John Lilley and John Cox, young fellows of Stevington, were brought up on remand, charged with stealing five fowls from the premises of Elizabeth Keech, of the same parish, on the 11th inst.

It appeared from the evidence that on the evening of the 11th inst. the four accused, having taken pretty freely of the village tap, were seized with an uncontrollable desire to have something out of the common way for supper. Accordingly on leaving the public house they made straight to Mrs. Keech's hen-roost, secured five of the fowls, and made off. On arriving at the home of one of the prisoners no time was lost in turning the booty into a luxurious meal, which they disposed of and buried the bones and entrails in the garden. The robbery came to the knowledge of police-constable Mardlin, who promptly and cleverly traced out the perpetrators, and elicited the above facts. All confessed their guilt but said they should not have committed the offence had they not been under the influence of drink.

Mr. Stimson appeared for the accused, and said the young men pleaded guilty, and under the circumstances and it being their first offence, he hoped the magistrates would be lenient.

The Chairman said drunkenness was no excuse for crime, but rather an aggravation of it. The Bench did not wish to pass a severe sentence, which was that they be imprisoned for six weeks each. He hoped the punishment would be a warning to them for the future.

The Bedfordshire Times & Bedfordshire Independent – 16/05/1871 – Thunderstorm - On the 8th inst, a severe thunderstorm passed over this locality. The lightning struck a cottage in the village, the only inmate at the time being a woman, who was in the act of opening the front door, and most fortunately escaped. The electric fluid struck the

chimney, down which it passed into the living room, and thence, after tearing up a portion of a petition, found a passage upstairs where it split a bedstead before making its way out of the window. A tree in the same parish was also struck.

The Bedfordshire Times & Independent - 31/08/1928 – At Stevington last week a large grey badger was caught after an exciting chase by a terrier belonging to Mr. Thomas Ruffhead, of Church Road, in his cornfield. The badger put up a good fight, and several of the dogs were mauled before it was killed. It weighed 16lb. Nearly the whole of the village turned out to see the chase, for even some of the oldest inhabitants do not remember ever having seen a badger in that neighbourhood. It is said there are other badgers in the locality.

The Bedfordshire Times & Independent - 05/09/1930 – Letters to the Editor – Sir, Great consternation has been caused in Stevington during the last few days by a Gipsy Moth aeroplane which has chosen to circle very low over the village. The owner chooses this mode of travelling to his business in London, and ever since his first flight in this neighbourhood (when he landed in a ploughed field) the villagers have felt scared when he has been seen flying low. Many of them are wondering when the nuisance will cease.

The Bedfordshire Times & Independent - 21/05/1937 – Unwelcome Visitor – An event which caused excitement during Stevington's Coronation festivities was a raid on a hen-house by a fox. In full view of the celebrating villagers, the fox made off with its Coronation dinner and no doubt, toasted King George when it had time to devour its ill-gotten meal.

The Birmingham Post – 15/10/1959 – Shots Fired as Police Chase Boys – After three boys had absconded from Carlton Approved School, Bedfordshire, yesterday, it was found that a .22 rifle and ammunition was missing from a farmer's lorry parked in a field. When police pursued the boys shots were fired. None of the police were hurt. The boys took refuge in a tree at Stevington. Shots were fired when police surrounded the area. Later three boys were arrested and taken to Bedford Police Station.

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Mark Jackson



UPDATE FROM STEVINGTON VILLAGE AGENT

Village Agents provide a free, confidential service and are here to help people over 65 with a variety of issues - large or small. We are funded by Bedford Borough Council, are all DBS checked and operate in the strictest confidence. Lizzie is the Village Agent for Stevington.

Winter Wellbeing visit - there is still a chance to take advantage of this campaign designed to help improve the wellbeing of older people over the colder months. The visit involves lots of information, helpful tips and there are a few freebies such as purse bells, carbon monoxide alarms and plug-in night lights on offer to those who book.

Don't be lonely - The Silverline Telephone Helpline is there to help. Everyone can feel lonely from time to time, but for many older people, loneliness is an ongoing issue, especially in the winter. Silverline provides a wonderful service where a volunteer phones once a week for a friendly chat. They also offer a letter writing service, where regular correspondence is exchanged between a volunteer and an older person.

Help with form filling - many older people aren't claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Lizzie can help identify which benefits you can claim by doing a confidential benefits check. She can also help you fill in those complicated forms such as Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms.

Please call Lizzie, your Village Agent on Freephone 0800 039 1234.

This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name and telephone number and we will call you back.

**DEFIBRILLATOR
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**Saturday 13 April
10am to 12 noon
Village Hall**

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**Marylyn and Ray Wood
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HARROLD ODELL COUNTRY PARK NEWS



The winter was exceptionally dry. We didn't have a single flood into the nature reserve this year which is highly unusual. This is bad news on a number of levels. The habitat is wet woodland. Water loving species like Fragmites reed, willow and alder trees like a period when their roots are bathed in water. Only the deepest seasonal ponds had any water in them, bad news for amphibians like frogs, toads and newts. Where are they going to lay their eggs? Spawn laid in the main lakes gets eaten by birds and fish.

Low water levels in the lakes are going to lead to excessive weed growth and blooms of blue/green algae. Strong sunlight penetrating down through the shallows to the lake bed, warm temperatures coupled with excess nutrients in the water running off from the surrounding farmland work together to make things worse.

We will monitor how things develop around the park as the weeks go by. One advantage of the mild conditions is that daffodils, flowering shrubs like cherry plum, primroses and violets are out early this year. We saw brimstone, small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterflies in February and we had a lovely show of wild daffodils out at the far end of the main picnic site.

We have applied for another Green Flag Award for this year. If we are successful, we will have won it for 12 consecutive years. The judges are coming on 5 April to scrutinise everything from the 5 year management plan to the facilities on offer, community engagement, cleanliness and safety. We really hope we are successful once again. We know that we are well received by our visitors but to prove it to others is another matter. We won't know the results until July.

The fishing season ended on 14 March and resumes on 16 June. Our fishery together with Priory Country Park in Bedford is owned by the Borough Council. Both are difficult fisheries to get results on so not for the faint hearted. However, the fish grow to large sizes, getting fat on the prolific invertebrate life to be found in the lakes. Only season permits are available, (no day tickets) from Bedford Borough Council at a cost of £76.50 for day & night or £47 for dawn to dusk. Next season, we will have a fishing bailiff on duty, Luke Clarke.

On 22 April, Easter Monday, we will be organising the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Publicity posters went up in the notice boards at the

beginning of March. Entry is £2.50 per child and booking is essential to ensure that we have enough eggs. Please email janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk or tel. 01234 720016 and leave your name, telephone number & how many children you are booking in.

Over the next couple of months, the birds will be nesting all around the park. We have 20 nest boxes up with additional ones for specific species like tree creepers and house sparrows. The majority are snapped up by blue tits and great tits. Our wood yard is used by wrens



Starling with chicks. Photo courtesy of Mark Layman

and robins so the whole park is going to be a hive of activity. All they require is plenty of caterpillars and other insects to feed the chicks. The cormorants have already taken up residence in their favourite trees on the island and begun to paint them white with their droppings. They are best viewed from the main bird hide.

We are now looking out for the summer migrants, the butterflies and the various species of dragonfly the park is famous for. Watch this space.

Lastly, I'd like to draw your attention to a Bedford Borough Council customer satisfaction survey specifically aimed at the country parks. It is vitally important that the Council is told just how important green spaces are to the health and wellbeing of the community and the casual visitor alike. They are also vital oases for wildlife in a period of increasing housing development. We would love it if you could let the Council know about what these spaces mean to you. We have some hard copies available in the park office but you can also complete the survey online. The link is <https://forms.bedford.gov.uk/hocp>. Many thanks.

Dates for your Diary

Easter Egg Hunt £2.50 per child

Monday 22 April. Session one: 10am-12pm, Session Two: 1pm-3pm
Booking essential. Email janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk or phone 01234 720016.

Health Walks (April 4 & 18, May 2, 16, 30)

Held every fortnight on a Thursday at 10.30am. This is a national scheme. Meet outside the woodland entrance to the café for registration then walk for an hour to improve your health & wellbeing and make new friends. There is an opportunity to have a coffee and a natter in the café afterwards. Contact janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk or ring 07585 908821 for more info.

Friends Group Task Days (April 29, May 20)

These are held on the last Monday of the month (a week earlier if a Bank Holiday). Meet at the Park office at 9.30am for tea after which you go out into the park to carry out whatever task is relevant to the season. Come in sturdy boots, old clothes and bring a packed lunch. We provide refreshments, gloves and tools. Tasks normally last until 3pm weather permitting. Email Richard.dowsett@bedford.gov.uk or call 07792 721866 for more info.

Janet Munro - Park Warden

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will be visiting The Cross at Stevington between 13:35-13:55 on the following Wednesdays:

March	27	April	10, 24
May	8, 22	June	5, 19
July	3, 17, 31	August	14, 28

Come along and see Arthur, to borrow books, spoken word items and much more!

New members are welcome, just bring some ID along, printed with your name and address, to join the Library. Please remember, now we have our new vehicle, you must bring your Library card every time you visit the Mobile Library.

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For further enquiries, please contact Kempston Library on 01234 276453.

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